

REMARKS

The amendment to the specification makes minor amendment to place the correct reference numeral in the correct position.

The Examiner rejected all claims as being anticipated or obvious over U.S. Patent 6,453,339 (Schultz et al.). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The application discloses and claims an automated provisioning system, an established term in the art of service providers including telephone companies, cable companies and internet service providers who provide a service over a telephone or cable networks. The service provider uses multiple network elements, each having their own manager. Often, managers are unable to communicate with one another. Relevant links between network elements must be manually applied in what is known as service provisioning. An automated provisioning system reduces costs and speeds up activation of service.

A service manager interfaces with an information repository but also with components of a distributed electronic system such as network switches, set top boxes and users. Schultz does not disclose the concept of the service manager, but rather a server engine managing content requests received from users through an interface. The server engine receives documents to be published and associates an object key with the document. The object key is stored in the repository as disclosed in column 4, lines 23-51. There is a distinct difference between services running on a component of a distributed network, as is the case of the invention, and information stored in a repository, as disclosed in Schultz. While Schultz has authentication to access content, there is no disclosure of activation of services.

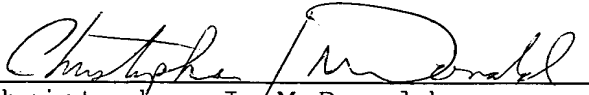
The features of the service manager recited in claim 18 are not disclosed in the prior art.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation

would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned Attorney.

A two-month Extension of Time accompanies this response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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